**BONNYRIGG AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the meeting held on 14 September 2023, at Lasswade Library**

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| Present: | Dan Lennie (Acting Chair), John Aitchison (Treasurer), Liz MacDonald (Minutes), Joyce Bernard, James Cameron, Bill MacDonald, Ruth Scott, Fiona Warner, Stuart Young. |
| In attendance: | Councillors Dianne Alexander, Derek Milligan; Flora Kenny, George Nicol, Stephen Psihramis from Sustrans, Avril Ramsay. |
| Apologies: | Diane Easton, Jammy Gracoeiro, Jan Irvine, PC Euan Lennox, Joan Sumner, David Virgo, Sandy Waterston, Dougie West.  |

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| **ITEM** |  | **1** | **Chair’s remarks** |  |
| Noted |  | (i) | DL chaired the meeting, as JI was in the Community Hospital in palliative care. |  |
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| **ITEM** |  | **2** | **Minutes and matters arising from August meeting** |  |
| Noted  |  | (i) | DL apologised as the minutes had not been circulated prior to the meeting, although they were on the BDCC website.  |  |
| Noted |  | (ii) | DL hoped to hear back from Midlothian Council about associate membership for Poltonhall Gala Day the following week. |  |
| Noted |  | (iii) | DL had sent the Council our suggestions to improve traffic flow on Bonnyrigg High Street. |  |
| Noted |  | (iv) | No complaints had been received about the Residents’ Forum Facebook page. |  |
| Noted |  | (v) | The motion to approve the 10 August draft minutes was proposed by JA and seconded by FW. The minutes were adopted as an accurate reflection of the 10 August meeting. |  |
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| **ITEM** |  | **3** | **Police report** |  |
| Received |  | (i) | Police reports for August had been received.  |  |
| Noted |  | (i) | DL highlighted several points, including fires in garden sheds; an unauthorised caravan in Dalhousie Gardens where a non-English speaking young couple were living; Social Services were aware and assistance had been offered, but they didn’t want it; an incident at the Mosque and the increasing number of break-ins and associated car thefts. He reminded everyone to be vigilant about their house and car security.  |  |
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| **ITEM** |  | **4** | **Finance report** |  |
| Received |  | (i) | Finance report had been received. |  |
| Noted |  | (i) | JA reported £35.00 payment to the Information Commissioner on 30 June and income of £0.61 and £0.74 interest on the two bank accounts. £900.00 was received as a grant from Midlothian Council. The old PHCC account was to be closed shortly and funds combined with the BDCC. There was no movement in August and the closing balance was £3922.29.  |  |
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| **ITEM** |  | **5** | **Secretary’s report** |  |
| Noted |  | (i) | DL commented on the number of items he had circulated recently and in particular encouraged everyone to complete the Open Space and Play Areas survey by the end of October. |  |
| Noted |  | (ii) | He had been in contact with CLLE about JI’s position as Chair of BDCC, and inability to attend due to ill health. Under the Constitution it was permissible to keep JI on the Community Council and grant her an extended leave of absence for 6 months until March 2024. This suggestion was proposed by DL and seconded by FW. |  |
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| **Item**  |  | **6** | **MTRaP report** |  |
| Noted |  | (i) | No MTRaP had been received. |  |
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| **ITEM** |  | **7** | **Report from Midlothian Councillors** |  |
| Received |  | (i) | Verbal update from DA. |  |
| Noted |  | (i) | She described problems with the use of glyphosate weedkiller, including an incident where 2 hives containing 3,000 bees had died. It wasn’t Midlothian Council, but Amey who was using it. Nothing can be done to stop Amey. Requests had been made to the Scottish and UK Governments to restrict its use. JA asked what the alternative was. Hot water and the use of street cleaners was the response. The Scottish Government had given money for an environment officer and hub in Penicuik and Bonnyrigg, to encourage people to get involved, collect litter, weed around the streets, and help people who can’t weed themselves. JA stated it depended what strength the glyphosate was. A debate followed on the issue. JA was concerned about weeds impacting on the roads. JC suggested heavy duty brushes were used. DA believed residents had to take responsibility for the environment.  |  |
| Noted |  | (ii) | A motorcyclist had been killed on the A6094 between Leadburn and Rosewell. DA would go to the accident site with the police and council roads officer to investigate. She would like to get the speed limit reduced to 40 mph. RS complained about speeding cars on Dundas Street and Cockpen Road. DL agreed to pass this on to the community police to monitor. |  |
| **ACTION** |  | **(i)** | **DL to alert police about the speed of vehicles south of Bonnyrigg Toll.** | **DL** |
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| Received |  | (i) | Verbal update from DM |  |
| Noted |  | (i) | He reported that all the areas which have private factors still use glyphosate. He didn’t support a total ban on the product, but was happy for it to be reduced. |  |
| Noted |  | (ii) | Change from the 49 to the 46 bus was a serious problem, with reduced route, frequency and size of vehicle. He had met with Lothian Buses prior to the change, pointing out concerns and had been promised performance would be reviewed in 6 months. He was gathering evidence and asked people to contact Lothian Buses directly. Children were often unable to get on the single decker back to Rosewell after school and had to wait 30 minutes for the next bus. As the 46 was often jam packed it was discriminating against those with buggies or wheel chairs. He was wary of doing anything to jeopardize the 46 bus route, as it goes to the Royal Infirmary. He admitted the addition of a 31 to Polton Mill on a Sunday was an improvement and was keen to get this also running earlier and later.  |  |
| Noted |  | (iii) | DM will put out a survey to the public about the Christmas lights being left up. The Christmas switch on will be the last Sunday in November. |  |
| Noted |  | (iv) | He reported changes to the capital prioritisation scheme, with Lasswade Primary School having dropped down the list. It had been earmarked for replacement 5 years ago, but is no longer in the top priority. A refurbishment was to be done instead. He will keep pushing for this to be changed. DA was also concerned about facilities at Lasswade Primary and had complained to the Education Director.  |  |
| Noted |  | (v) | DM commented on a report about the number of children going to school hungry and coming home hungry. |  |
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| **ITEM** |  | **8** | **Planning** |  |
| Noted |  | (i) | No update received. |  |
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| **ITEM** |  | **9** | **AOCB** |  |
| Noted |  | (i) | **Stephen Psihramis from Sustrans** – DA introduced Stephen and explained she had asked him to look at cycle parking in Bonnyrigg. She was keen that people were encouraged to cycle to the centre of town, as a transport hub and then get a bus. SP can approach Cycle Scotland for funding for cycle shelters. Different types of shelter are available from standard hoop ones to larger ones with key access. DL felt any potential storage had to be secure. JA queried had there been much theft from the shelters. SP said there were none in Midlothian but the ones in Edinburgh and Dundee had key access to prevent theft. A discussion followed on possible locations. The shelter would need to be central to the bus stops and shops. It was also agreed it would be good to take cycles out of common stairs, where they were a fire hazard. The deadline for application was 9 October. DL would send SP possible locations and SP agreed to submit an application on behalf of BDCC. |  |
| **ACTION** |  | **(i)** | **SP to apply for funding for secure cycle storage.** | **SP** |
| Noted |  | (ii) | SP described the Active Travel Strategy and desire to capture travel patterns and survey the local infrastructure. A consultant for an active travel corridor on the A7 was to be appointed. |  |
| Noted |  | (iii) | DA and DM both expressed concern about the speed of cyclists and electric bikes on the railway walkway. It was suggested signage may help. |  |
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| **ITEM**  |  | **11** | **Date of next meeting** |  |
|  |  |  | Thursday 12 October at 7 pm in Lasswade Library, to include the AGM, as well as the ordinary meeting. |  |